Amateur Radio Newsline Report 1547 - April 6, 2007

Amateur Radio Newsline report number 1547 with a release date of Friday, April 6th, 2007 to follow in 5-4-3-2-1.

The following is a Q-S-T. The ham radio ban continues in Iraq, the long awaited Swains Island Dxpedition is on the air and the fight against B-P-L continures world-wide. Find out the details on Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) report number 1547 coming your way right now.

(Billboard Cart Here)

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WORLDBEAT: IRAQ HAM RADIO BLACK-OUT CONTINUES

The shut-down of Amateur Radio in Iraq could continue for a long time. This according to several reports that quote officials of the Iraq Amateur Radio Society. Amateur Radio Newsline's Jeff Reinhardt, AA6JR, has the details:

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The Iraq Amateur Radio Society says through Internet postings that it has turned down a government request to warehouse all ham gear owned by Iraqi radio amateurs. This is because its simply to dangerous to go out and collect the equipment.

While Iraq's ham populace may not be radiating R-F, they are still communicating with one-another and with the outside. This, world using Echolink and other V-O-I-P systems over the World Wide Web.

This was confirmed earlier in a posting to the QRZ dot com website where Iraq Amateur Radio Society President Diya Sayah, YI1DZ, indicated this would likely be the case.

Sayah wrote -- and we quote: "Echolink, CQ100, the Internet, cellphones are still working and we had several ham radios working now using these instead of RF." The term "ham radios" in this case referring to operators not actual gear.

The Iraqi ham radio blackout affects anyone operating an Amateur station from that nation. That includes its citizens, outside contractors and even members of other nations military who are stationed in Iraq.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, Im Jeff reinhardt, AA6JR, in Los Angeles.

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As previously reported, the Iraqi Ministry of Defense last month ordered that all Iraqi radio amateurs remain off the air until improvements are made in what it terms as that nations overall internal security. Some political observers in the West believe that could take years if not decades to happen. (Various)

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THE DX WORLD: SWAINS ISLAND IS ON THE AIR

The long awaited N-8-S Swains Island DXpedition is on the air! The first contacts were made at just past 10:00 U-T-C on Wednesday, April 4th with literal pile-ups already reported on 80, 40 and 20 meters.

By the time this newscast goes to air, the 17 member team should be active on all of the High Frequency bands from 160 through 10 meters. They are also carrying moonbounce and weak signal gear for use on on 6 and 2 meters. The primary modes to be used will be SSB and C-W but they will be operating W-S-J-T-65 on 50.375 MHz and 144.375 MHz for their Earth-Moon-Earth operations.

Radio New Zealand International which has been following the Swains Island DX-pedition planning says that in addition to the ham radio aspect of this expedition, the group will be delivering supplies, such as tents, equipment and food items for those living on Swains. Also that the ham radio team will donate an Amateur station and a generator to ensure communication is always available between the isolated atoll and the outside world.

The N-8-S team plans to be on Swains through April 15th. Up to date information on this operation is on line at www.yt1ad.info/n8s

We will have more DX at the end of this weeks newscast. (Various DX remailers, Radio New Zealand International)

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HAM RADIO IN SPACE: HAM SPACE TOURIST TO LAUNCH APRIL 7

If all goes as planned, space tourist Charles Simonyi KE7KDP, should be on the International Space Station by the time many of you hear this newscast. As we go to AIR, THE Russian Soyuz spacecraft carrying Simonyi is slated for liftoff

at 17:30 U-T-C on April 7th.

The launch was to be carried live on both NASA and E-S-A television. Once on board the I-S-S, Simonyi plans to use one of the ARISS stations for contacts with students at four schools as well as possible casual contacts with hams on the ground.

After his stay, KE7KDP will return to Earth with members of the departing Expedition 14 crew. They are being replaced by Expedition 15 which is made up of Russian cosmonauts Fyodor Yurchikhin, RN3FI, and non-ham Oleg Kotov. U-S astronaut Suni Williams, KD5PLB, will remain on the I-S-S. Her tour of duty was scheduled to span portions of Expeditions 14 and 15. (ARISS, Southgate, others)

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THE BPL WAR: AUSTRALIAN BPL INTERFERENCE VIDEO RELEASED

The fight against interference caused by access B-P-L continues down-under. This with the release of a new 8 minute documentary video dealing with the interference potential of Broadband Over Powerline technology in Australia.

The show is a virtual tour video of the Mt Nelson B-P-L trial area and contains a visual and audible representation of the interference potential of the B-P-L technology deployed in the area. It also contains commentary and background information on B-P-L technology . You can view it on-line at http://reast.asn.au/vk7bplwatch.php#bpltours (WIA News)

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THE BPL WAR: RSGB OPPOSES BPL SCHEME

The Radio Society of Great Britain is supporting International Amateur Radio Union Region 1 efforts to stop proposals, whereby Broadband over Powerline systems could operate within the High Frequency broadcast bands. This, using a technique called dynamic notching. The RSGB support has been to echo IARU's detailed technical objections; the response can be seen from the link on the RSGB web site - www,rsgb.org. (GB2RS)

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Break 1

From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline, heard on bulletin stations around the world including the WC8OH repeater serving Kettering,

Ohio.

(5 sec pause here)

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RADIO RULES: THE FCC AND 6.25 kHz NARROWBAND TECHNOLOGY

The Federal Communications Commission has declined to mandate when the Private Land Mobile Service will be directed to adopt 6.25 kHz narrowband spacing between systems, but says that it will eventually happen. And this could be as early as 2011 or 2013. And hams in need of more repeater channels are likely watching to see how it all pans out. Amateur radio Newsline's Bruce Tennant, K6PZW, has more:

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If you own an Amateur repeater on any of the bands between 2 meters and 70 centimeters, a decision by the FCC to force users in the Private Land Mobile Service to adop 6.25 KHz inter-station spacing at some yet to be determined day could eventually impact on ham radio. This is because the operating standards used in commercial service usually work themselves down to ham radio operations over a period of time.

On March 22nd the FCC made public its Third Report and Order dealing with a mandatory shift to 6.25 KHz ultra-narreowband technology. The release says that the agency for now does not want to establish a specific fixed date for private land mobile radio systems in the 150 to 174 MHz and 421 to 512 MHz bands to transition to 6.25 kHz. That said, the FCC also says that it plans to have such a transition take place once gear is available and certified for sale. And for that reason, the FCC strongly urges land mobile licensees to consider migrating directly to 6.25 kHz rather than first adopting 12.5 kHz spacing and later making the 6.25 kHz move.

But there are a few caveats. In its announcement, the FCC admitted that 6.25 kHz technology is not mature enough to warrant setting a specific migration schedule. Also, that there are no accepted industry standards for 6.25 kHz, and this could be a problem in regard to interoperability between various users.

But says the the FCC also says that it will expeditiously establish a schedule for transition to 6.25 kHz ultra-narrowband once the technology matures to the point that sufficient equipment is available for testing.

What does this mean to hams? While the FCC is not likely to tell radio amateurs that they have to adopt the same technology, it is all but inevitable that some hams will begin looking at 6.25 kHz for their own future repeater operations. This might be especially true in the crowded urban areas like the North-East and in California where waiting lines exist for new repeaters with some hams in that line for several years.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Bruce Tennant, K6PZW, in Los Angeles.

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6.25kHz narrowband will not be seen in the Private Land Mobile Radio for several years, but ham radio experimenters are likely to try it long before then. (Adapted from FCC news release)

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RESCUE RADIO: CONECTICUT DISTRICT ADOPTS HAM RADIO EMCOMMS

A Connecticut township health district has adopted Amateur Radio as its second line for back-up emergency communications. The March 31st edition of the electronic newspaper Voices.com reports that the Naugatuck Valley Health District has completed the installation of the new ham radio base station, to assist in emergency communications.

The article notes that Al Raymond KB1HLK of Naugatuck and Charlie Betkoski, WB1CML, of Seymour, the NVHD helped to spearhead the successful installation of the station. The gear will used in the event that traditional means of communication, including landline telephone, cell or computer, have failed, or are being stretched thin and not functioning adequately.

Health District leaders say that the organization has been working very closely with its partners in the Connecticut Amateur Radio and Emergency Services to make sure that they have purchased equipment that will stand the test of time, and will be easy to operate for ham radio volunteers. A recent test of the system showed that it could communicate state wide.

The Naugatuck Valley Health District says that it is also close to enacting a memorandum of understanding with Connecticut ARES. One that will solidify the relationship that has been developing between it and the regions Amateur Radio operators over the past several years. (voices.com)

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RESCUE RADIO: REPORT SAYS CELLPHONES SAFE IN HOSPITALS

A report released on March 9th has concluded
that cellular telephone calls made on cell phones
do not affect hospital medical devices. But the
same researchers say that store anti-theft alarms
might make implanted heart devices
misbehave. Amateur Radio Newsline's Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, reports:

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According to March issue of Mayo Clinic
Proceedings., tests at Rochester, Minnesota
hospital showed normal use of cellular telephones
caused no noticeable interference with patient
care equipment. What came as a surprise was a
finding that a portable CD player caused an
abnormal electrocardiograph reading when a
patient used it near one of the leads of the device.

Most hospitals forbid the use of cell
phones. Dr. David Hayes and colleagues said
their tests suggest the ban is unmerited.

The researchers tested cellular phones using two
different technologies from different carriers,
near 192 different medical devices. During 300
tests run over five months, they reported no trouble with the equipment.

But not all communications technology mixes with
medical devices. Dr. J. Rod Gimbel of East
Tennessee Heart Consultants and Dr. James Cox of
the University of Tennessee Medical Center in
Knoxville described two cases in which anti-theft
devices apparently caused implanted heart devices to malfunction.

Dr. Gimbel says that one of the patients had a
pacemaker and she collapsed after pausing in a
store doorway. Another had an implantable
cardiac defibrillator that shocked him after he
stood near an anti-theft unit. Dr. Gimbel adds
that simply moving a person with one of these
implanted devices away from the anti-theft device may save their lives.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Bill
Pasternak, WA6ITF, at the studio in Los Angeles.

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Regardless of what this report says, it is
important to follow the rules that each
individual hospital enforces and displays. And
if the sign says to turn off your cellular

telephone while on the premises, then its best
that you do as asked. That goes for your H-T or
any other two-way device as well. (Mayo Clinic Proceedings, Science On-Line)

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ENFORCEMENT: SIGN YOUR LETTER AND STAY OFF THIS REPEATER

Turning to regulatory news, a New York, ham,
previously told by the FCC to stay off of certain
repeatesr, has had his written response returned
to him by the FCC. This because he failed to sign it.

On February 20th, the FCC wrote to Bruce H.
Williams, N2YIH, of Long Island City, ordering
that he stay off three New York city area
repeaters. This, after Williams allegedly
ignored an edict from the systems trustee to not use the machines.

According to the FCC, Williams filed a written
response on March 12th but did not sign it. That
letter was returned to him on March 27th for his
signature. At that time the FCC said that the
repeaters he must avoid using are those operating
under he call letters WA2ZLB. (FCC)

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ENFORCEMENT: PLEASE QSY YOUR REPEATER

A ham in Puerto Rico who declined to change the
operating frequency of his system has been advised to do so by the FCC.

In a letter to Oscar Resto, KP4RF, the FCC notes
that he was requested by the Puerto Rico Virgin
Islands Volunteer Frequency Coordinators group to
move his repeater off of 145.450 MHz because it
was mixing with another transmitter and
interfering with a repeater on 145.37 MHz. The
FCC notes that both repeaters involved are
coordinated and that such a move by Resto would
not only cure this problem but another interference problem as well.

The FCC letter notes that the coordination
council has found a new frequency pair for
Resto's system, and advises him that making the
move would be in the best interest of all
concerned. But the FCC also warned KP4RF that
failure to resolve the interference may subject
him to a loss of automatic remote control privileges for his machine. (FCC)

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RADIO AT ALTITUDE: IN FLIGHT CELLPHONE BAN TO CONTINUE

Don't look for the FCC to change its rules that

currently forbid the use of cellular telephones while flying. This after the agency acts on Tuesday, April 3rd to continue its ban on the in-flight use of these and other wireless devices.

Back on on Tuesday March 20th FCC Chair Kevin Martin announced that the agency would likely abandon a proposal that would have lifted the prohibition. The decision came after the wireless telecommunications industry indicated in recent comments to the FCC that mobile phone calls in planes at altitude would cause massive interfere with their ground based networks. While the range of a cellphone is only a mile or so on the ground, that same unit at 35,000 feet could capture cellular telephone receivers sites for several hundred miles in all directions. That said the industry would bog down a systems ability to handle other calls.

Two agencies claim regulatory jurisdiction over the issue. The FCC is focused on whether in-flight calling interferes with ground-based networks, while the Federal Aviation Administration considers in-flight safety issues.. (Published news reports)

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HAM RADIO ON THE WWW: NEW ECHOLINK PUBLICATION

A new and easy to understand introduction to Echolink has been published on the World Wide Web. Although intended for the United Kingdom's MB7IPH-L node the information is equally applicable to Echolink operation world-wide. The PDF can be downloaded from http://www.headcorn.org/echolink/intro.pdf (Southgate)

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HAM HOLIDAYS: INTERNATIONAL MARCONI DAY - APRIL 28

International Marconi Day will take place on Saturday 28th April this year.   Although the event is not a contest, participants can qualify for award certificates by contacting special stations. These stations must operate on or close to a site where Guglielmo Marconi carried out experiments or where Marconi equipment was used prior to his death in 1937. Further information can be found at www.gb4imd.org.uk. (Varoious)

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THE SOCIAL SCENE: QRP FOUR DAYS IN MAY EVENT

Low power operators are being invited to register
for the Four Days in May event. Its being held
on May 17th to 20th in Dayton, Ohio, alongside the 2007 Dayton Hamvention.

Organized by the QRP Amateur Radio Club
International, Four Days in May is the world's
premier QRP convention. This year there will
once again be the usual line-up of expert
speakers including Radio Communications Magaxine
columnist, the Rev. George Dobbs, G3RJV flying in
from the U-K.   Other speakers include Lyle
Johnson, KK7P and Wes Hayward, W7ZOI. There will
also be various building and design competitions during the event.

The Four Days in May gala banquet and
prize-giving ceremony will be held on Saturday
evening, May 19th. Full details about the event
can be found on the web at www.qrparci.org/fdim. (Press release)

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BREAK 2

This is ham radio news for today's radio
amateur. From the United States of America, We
are the Amateur Radio Newsline with links to the
world from our only official website at
www.arnewsline.org and being relayed by the
volunteer services of the following radio amateur:

(5 sec pause here)

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A WORD OF THANKS FROM THE SUPPORT FUND WITH ANDY JAREMA N6TCQ

Ladies and gentlemen, with more thanks to those
who contributed to the Newsline Support Fund.
Thjis time going back to May of 2006, here's
Amateur Radio Newsline's Support Fund Administrator Andy Jarema, N6TCQ.

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In the month of May we heard from monthly
contributor Joseph Bartzi, Jr., KC8DKF of
Columbus, OH., The Peoria, IL Area ARC , monthly
contributor William Walters, WA2IBM, and Scott
Hensley of the Area Communications Team, both in
San Jose and the San Francisco ARC, in memory of member Jim, KK6SD

Via PayPal we heard from Robert Weissman , the
Sulpher Mountain Repeater Association of Santa Paula, CA,
N. Rubin of N3SGD Electronics and Gary Elmer,
representing the KG6DVO repeater of Huntingon Beach, CA.

Month in and month out Newsline gives you the latest news of Amateur Radio- it doesn't come to us- we have to go get it. With no advertising, we depend on you- our loyal listeners. Our website- arnewsline.org has all the info you need to contribute, including a quick link to PayPal. Or there's our address: Newsline Support Fund, PO Box 660937, Arcadia, CA 91066. That address will be repeated at the end of the newscast. Thanks for your help. I'm Andy Jarema. N6TCQ. (Support Fund)

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Thank you Andy.

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HAM RADIO IN SPACE: OSCAR 11 AGAIN HEADED TO ECLIPSE

If you want to use the OSCAR 11 satellite, now is the time to give uit a try. This is the last operational period for the Amsat-OSCAR 11 ham radio satellite before eclipses start on April 20th.

Currently, good, steady signals are being heard from it on 145.826 MHz. If the satellite behaves as it did last year, once the eclipses begin, it is unlikely to be heard for any length of time, during the eclipse period. These continue until August 23rd.

OSCAR 11 also known as UoSAT-OSCAR 11 or UoSAT-2 is one of those long surviving ham radio birds. It was launched into orbit way back on March 1, 1984 on a Thor Delta rocket from Vandenberg Air Force Base in California. It was the first ham satellite to carry a digital store-and-forward communications payload. (AMSAT, G3CWV, ARNewsline(tm))

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WORLDBEAT - CANADA: NEW CANADIAN SECTION MANAGERS

Radio amateurs of Canada has named Joan Bahnman, VE5JML, as Saskatchewan Section Manager, completing the term ending October 31, 2008. Bahnman has been acting in the position after the first call for nominations went unanswered by Saskatchewan hams. In the recent second call she ran unopposed, thus removing the need for a balloted election.

Meanwhile, Alberta Section Manager Tom Martens, VE6TRM, was nominated and ran unopposed in that Section, thereby also alleviating the need for a balloted election. Tom begins another two-year term on July 1st. (RAC)

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WORLDBEAT - UK: RSGB MAMES NEW RCVS NATIONAL COORDINATOR

The Radio Society of Great Britain has appointed Dr Robin Bellerby, GM3ZYE, as its new Radio communications Voluntary Services National Coordinator. Dr. Bellerby who resides in the city of Newton Stewart, has more than forty years experience of RAYNET and radio services to the local community behind him. His principal role is that of the working interface between all RAYNET groups and the RSGB and to work closely with the "Network" on all emergency communications matters. RAYNET is the UK equivalent of RACES. Dr. Bellerby takes up his post immediately. (GB2RS)

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WORLDBEAT - NEW ZEALAND: AN NZART CONVENTION DOWN-UNDER

Down-under, the New Zealand Amateur Radio Transmitters 2007 Conference and Annual General Meeting will be held June 1st to the 4th . The venue is the Palmerston North Convention Centre in the city of Palmerson. Among this years highlights will be forums by Fred Johnson ZL2AMJ showing an Introductory Demonstrations in Radio Technology and local Government Liaison Officer Mike Newman ZL1BNB on Antennas and the New Zealand Resource Management Act. More information is on-line at www.nzart.org.nz/nzart (NZART)

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ON THE AIR: K5THD CELEBRATES WORLD HEALTH DAY APRIL 7

Special Event station K5THD will be focusing on World Health Day while operating from the Tulsa City-County Health Department. K5THD, which is the . Tulsa Health Department Amateur Radio Club, will take to the airwaves on Saturday, April 7th from just after midnight to 23:59 UTC to celebrate the 2007 outing of this annual event. Operations will be on . 7.273, 14.273, 21.373 and 28.373 HHz. QSL to the Tulsa Health Department Amateur Radio Club, 5051 S 129 E Ave, Tulsa, OK 74134. PSK and SSTV on request. See www.tulsa-health.org/k5thd for more. KC5FM))

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HAM RADIO AND SCOUTING: THE SCOUTING 100 AWARD

A new international Amateur Radio award has been launched to mark the centenary of the scouting movement.

Called the Scouting 100 Radio Award it comes in

two forms. One is available only to ham radio operators while the other to S-W-L's.

To attain this award, it is necessary to accrue points by contacting or hearing scout or guide stations during 2007. Contacts or reports with individual scout or guide stations count for one point. Special event scout stations are worth two points. The World Jamboree, the Gilwell Park station in the U-K and Brownsea Island stations count for five points each.

There are no restrictions on what bands and modes are used. The award is also available for Echolink and IRLP mode operators. More is on-line at www.scouting100award.org. (RSGB)

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DX

In DX word that an upcoming operation is in need of a few more good operators. The R-S-G-B News says that K-5-L-B-U, is organizing a DXpedition to Botswana, which is scheduled to take place between July 5th to the 21st. He already has four operators so far, but would like to find at least two more to join the team. If you are interested in making the trip you can contact him at frosty1@pdq.net

And news that DL6UAA will be active as 3B8MM from Mauritius starting on the 5th April and will be there for a few weeks. He will operate mostly CW, but will also give SSTV a try. QSL DL6UAA either direct or via the bureau.

Also, 3D2AG is active as FO5RK portable F-K from Noumea, New Caledonia. He will be there to the end of April operating mostly on 40 and 20 meter CW. QSL this one direct only.

Lastly, listen out for a group of operators from Antwerp, Belgium to be active as ON4OSA portable P-A from Schouwen-Duiveland. This through the 14th of April. QSL this one as directed on the air.

(Various DX news sources)

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THAT FINAL ITEMS: CALL IT DX DREAMS

And finally this week, the United States is not the only place where hams have D-X wish lists. Amateur Radio Newsline's Don Wilbanks is here with the D-X desires of hams in one European nation and of those down-under:

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German radio amateurs are desperate to make contact with Swain's Island while Australians and New Zealanders are more keen on QSOing with an operation from Yemen.. This, according to a pair of new surveys that have recently been released.

The German DX Foundation has published the results of a 2006 survey of that nations most wanted DXCC entities. More than 83 percent of respondents cited Swain's Island as their most wanted. This was followed by Scarborough Reef, Navassa Island, Bouvet Island and Lakshadweep Islands.

Meanwhile, a survey into Oceania's most wanted list by ZL3AB, revealed that Australian and New Zealand hams wanted most to make contact with Yemen. Other locations high up the list for those living down-under included Navassa, Pagalu I, Scarborough Reef and Amsterdam and St Paul Island.

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I guess no matter where in the world you are, you likely have a most wanted D-X list of your very own. (WIA News)

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NEWSCAST CLOSE

With thanks to Alan Labs, AMSAT, the ARRL, the CGC Communicator, CQ Magazine, the FCC, the Ohio Penn DX Bulletin, Radio Netherlands, Rain, the RSGB, the Southgate News and Australia's W-I-A News, that's all from the Amateur Radio Newsline(tm). Our e-mail address is newsline@arnewsline.org. More information is available at Amateur Radio Newsline's(tm) only official website located at www.arnewsline.org. You can also write to us or support us at Amateur Radio Newsline(tm), P.O. Box 660937, Arcadia, California 91066.

Two reminders before we go. First about our on-line poll regarding ypur position on the concept of Regulation by Bandwidth. To take part, take yourr web browser to www.arnewsline.org. Scroll down and watch for the word "Polls" on the left hand side of the page. Then click on the box that is closest to your view. As soon as you cast your vote you will see the current results.

Also, the nominating season for this years Amateur Radio Newsline Young Ham of the Year Award is now open. Any radio amateur age 18 or

younger residing in all 50 United States, plus Puerto Rico and all 13 Canadian Provences can qualify. Full details and nominating forms are on our special website at www,yhoty.org. Also see the Vertex-Standard sponsored ad on page 8 of the March issue of QST Magazine.

For now, with Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, at the editors desk, I'm Burt Hicks, WB6MQV, saying 73 and we thank you for listening. Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) is Copyright 2007. All rights reserved.